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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Update 5 – 11:30 a.m.

## City continues repair work on River Road sewer pipe break

The city continues to pump wastewater into tanker trucks as efforts to make repairs to the punctured forcemain sewer pipe on River Road continue. Today city officials are securing additional equipment they have determined will be needed to make a repair to the pipe. Workers have repeatedly had trouble excavating around the pipe to make a repair because the ground is so saturated.

This afternoon, the city will be installing large metal sheets that will be driven into the ground to make a hole so workers can get to the pipe to make the repair. Large repair sleeves are being transported from Alabama and are expected to arrive tonight in time to begin repair efforts that will continue tonight when flow through the pipe is lowest.

Approximately 2 million gallons of wastewater flow through the River Road forcemain each day. City officials estimate that roughly half of the flow is being retrieved via tanker trucks each day. By 5 p.m. today, the city estimates a total of 4 million gallons will have spilled, with about 2 million gallons being retrieved by tanker trucks that have been pumping wastewater continuously since the spill was discovered.

Wastewater not captured has spilled into the nearby Cape Fear River. The state has issued a precautionary swimming advisory for New Hanover and Brunswick counties.

The forcemain broke on Monday afternoon after a contractor for a local utility hit it while excavating to install underground utilities. The spill is located at the intersection of River Road and Shipyard Boulevard, at the entrance to the state Ports facility.

The city has also begun water quality testing and expects to have initial results later this evening.

As a precaution, the city recommends that citizens not come into contact with the water. Updates will be provided as information becomes available.

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For more information, contact city Public Information Officer Malissa Talbert at 342-2736 or 470-8720.